



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Laurel Man, 20, Sentenced in Drug-Related Robbery of Clarksville Home

A 20-year-old Laurel man was sentenced to 13 years in prison, five of which are without parole, for the April 2017, drug-related armed robbery at a Clarksville home. Abdulai Karim Sesay Braima, of the 91000 block of Canterbury Riding, pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree assault, two counts of armed robbery and two counts of use of a firearm in commission of a crime of violence last December and was sentenced in Howard County Circuit Court this morning.

Police responded to a home, located in the 5900 block of Trotter Road, shortly after midnight last April 11 where the occupants reported that two men had robbed them after being invited into the residence to conduct a drug transaction. Once the two men entered the homeowner's bedroom, Braima produced a semi-automatic handgun, announced a robbery and held the gun to the homeowner's head. The two then proceeded to rob the victims of their cell phones, along with luxury clothing accessories and a Rolex watch— all of which totaled over \$13,000.

Braima's accomplice, Irvin Jacob Smith, 23, of the 9600 block of Overton Drive, Laurel, was known and identified by one of the victims. Once Smith was arrested he admitted to having a part in planning the robbery. On February 26, he was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty, last year, to one count of first-degree assault and two counts of armed robbery.

Before announcing the sentence, Judge William V. Tucker noted Braima's life experiences and accomplishments, his juvenile record, along with his record of detention center infractions since his arrest. Upon his eventual release, Braima must serve three years of supervised probation and make restitution to the victims.

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